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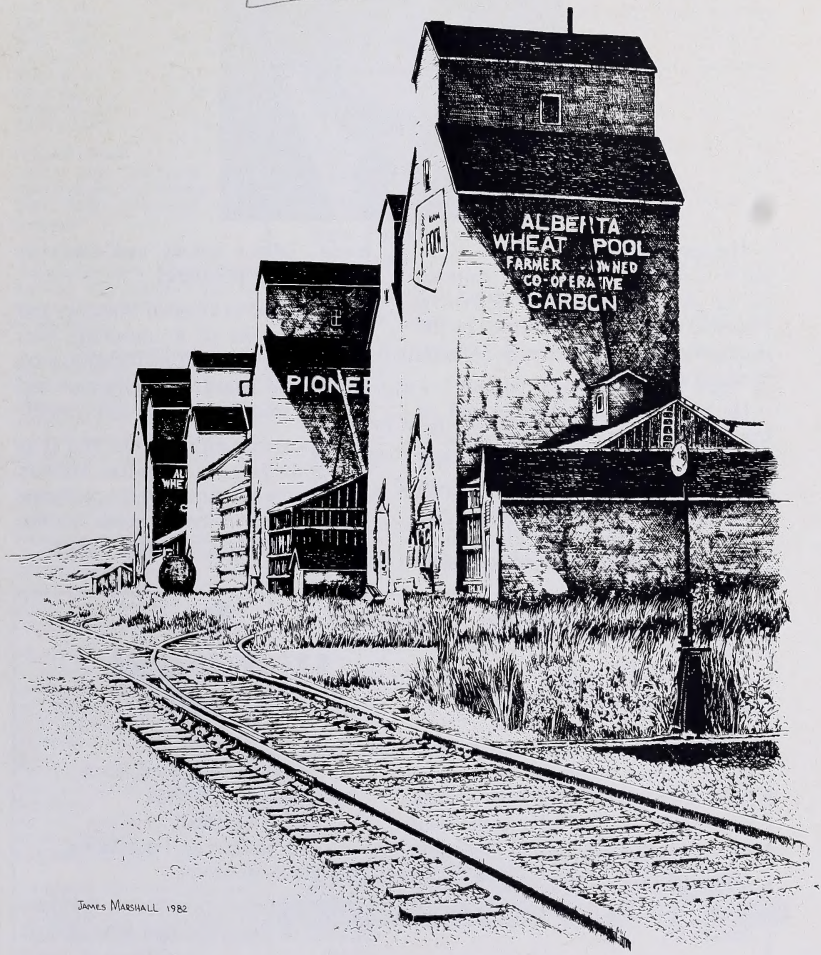
C.O.P

The CORNERSTONE

Journal of the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation



Volume 10, Number 1, Spring 1987

William G. Curran, Appointed New Chairman Alberta Historical Resources Foundation

The appointment of William G. Curran to a three-year term as Chairman of the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation has been confirmed by the Honorable Dennis Anderson, Alberta Minister of Culture.

He comes from a background of transportation and commercial consulting. Born in Glasgow, Scotland, Bill is a Canadian citizen with more than forty-five years experience in day to day relations with senior representatives of Canadian federal and provincial governments, labour unions and customer management personnel.

Bill served as General Manager and later as owner of a consulting firm which was involved in transportation studies and industrial intelligence and security studies at home and abroad.

Bill was chosen in World War II as one of the original Canadian Military Officers for assignment to the combined USA-Canada First Special Service Force of Para-Ski-Infantry Troops.

New Foundation Brochure Now Available

A new brochure has been produced to tell people about the work of the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation. Copies are available at the Foundation's office in Calgary.

Photos in the new brochure were made available for Foundation use thanks to:

Athabasca United Church

Historical Alberta

Donna Coulter
Edmonton Public Schools
Glenbow Archives
James Marshall
Old Strathcona Foundation
Steve Bemount

Our warmest appreciation for their support of this important promotional effort.

CANADIANA

MAY - 5 1987

The

CORNERSTONE

Journal of the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation

COVER PHOTO: James Marshall print "Grain Elevators". A framed full-sized copy to be won by a member. See outside back cover.

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ALBERTA LOTTERIES

The Alberta Historical Resources Foundation was established in 1976 to provide the means to assist in the preservation of the Province's historic buildings, sites and objects and to encourage and promote public awareness of Alberta's past.

Members of the Board

Chairman
William G. Curran — Calgary

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Jack Barrie — Medicine Hat
Elise Corbet — Calgary
Hugh Craig — Fort Macleod
Art Evans — Edmonton
Betty Gaudin — Beaverlodge
Bruce Haig — Lethbridge
Walter Jamieson — Calgary
Julius Piffko — Edmonton

Executive Staff
Guan L. Law, Director of Administration and Finance
Esther Brown, Director of Programs

Editor/Publisher
Margaret Archibald, APR, of Public Relations Plus (Calgary) Ltd., is editing The Cornerstone on a consulting basis.

The Foundation

The Foundation is a Provincial Crown Agency, able to involve Albertans directly with its programmes and projects. Donations and bequests of funds or property receive the tax benefit of a donation to the Crown.

Membership is only $5.00 a year. It entitles a supporter to receive the Foundation's quarterly magazine which includes notices of Foundation activities and forthcoming exhibitions at the Foundation's office and gallery and heritage activities throughout the Province.

Albertans are invited to contact the Foundation's office with their enquiries, news and information of subjects and events which they want to share through the pages of the magazine.

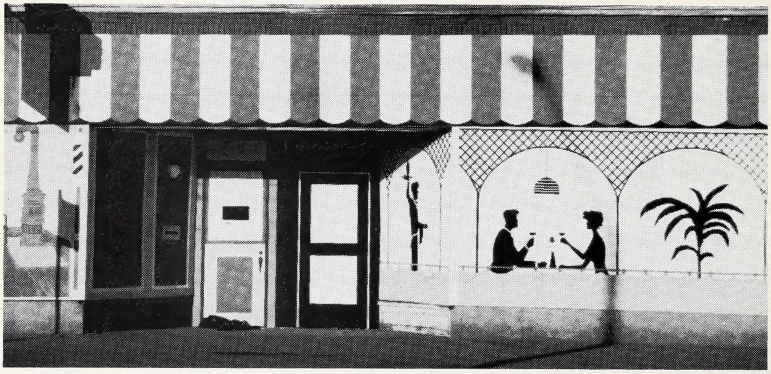
Please direct all enquiries to:
Alberta Historical Resources Foundation
102 - 8th Avenue S.E., Calgary, Alberta T2G 0K6
Telephone (403) 297-7320

Cornerstone: A stone forming a part of a corner or angle in a wall; specifically such a stone laid at a formal ceremony or; the most basic element; the foundation of.

ISSN 0707-705X

Recent Foundation Grants

Murals Depict Early Glory of Gibson Block



With the assistance of an $11,500 grant from the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation, SPARE has installed plywood hoarding the Gibson Block, at 9608 Jasper Avenue. The lower display windows are painted with murals developed and executed by students of the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT), under the direction of NAIT instructor and architect Bob Spencer. These murals refer to past businesses of the Gibson Block, such as the Gibson Cafe and suggest possible future uses.

Given the Gibson Block's importance and potential, SPARE hopes that this action will promote the rehabilitation of the Gibson Block and slow its deterioration from weather and vandalism.

Edmonton's Gibson Block, was built in 1912-13 for William Gibson at a cost of $40,000. Designed by architect B.W. Corley, the building has 49 rooms and contains 2,090 square metres (22,500 square feet). Its original development costs were low because of the wedge-shaped property, which no one else wanted. Nicknamed 'Flat Iron' buildings, such pie-shaped buildings are now rare in Canada. In fact, the only other one in Alberta is in Lacombe. The Gibson block is also distinguished by its elegant proportions, the large arch over the main entrance, its entablature and cornice, and its fine red brickwork.

Due to the unique architectural and historic qualities of the building, and at the owner's request, the Gibson Block was designated by Alberta Culture as a Registered Historic Resource in 1978.

Intended for commercial use in what was then Edmonton's downtown core, the Gibson Block's early tenants included restaurants, variety shops, and the most popular turkish bath in Ed-

monton, which stayed in operation until the early 1970's. A year after construction, William Gibson sold the building to the 'Schubert and Wenzel Real Estate Company', who converted the upper floors to apartments. Twenty years later, in 1934, the City of Edmonton took over the building in lieu of back taxes. In 1950 'Slate Rubin Ltd.' bought the building; it continued to house small stores and apartments. In fact, many Edmontonians recall patronizing the grocery which occupied the point of the wedge. In 1977, the Gibson Block was listed for sale and the building saw a period of physical decline until 1983 when the City closed it as unfit for human habitation. A fire several years ago further damaged the building, although it remains intact and relatively sound, despite the vandalized and derelict interior.

The Gibson Block is a significant structure in its own right, but it is also an important anchor property for the revitalization of the entire Jasper Avenue East area. Since the mid-1970's, city planners, the Edmonton Historical Board, and SPARE have advocated preserving important features of this early 1900's streetscape. The 1984 Mayor's Task Force on the Heart of the City also argued for the preservation of this last remaining section of Edmonton's early commercial district.

Edson Red Brick School

The 1913 vintage brick school was declared a designated historic resource in 1986. After extensive restoration/rehabilitation, the building is again a vital part of the community through its use as a museum, archives and cultural facility. A grant of $40,000 from the Foundation assisted in the approximate $400,000 restoration project.

News Article

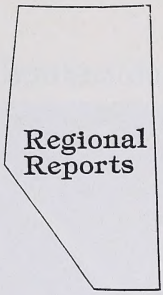
After a 1-½ year effort to save the "Berube House" in Beaumont the Beaumont & District Historical Society's hopes were destroyed when the 74 year old house was allowed to be used for fire practise by its owner and ultimately destroyed. The society's offer to purchase the property for $100,000 was turned down and soon after, a local businessman purchased the property for $150,000. An attempt by the Historical Society to raise the extra $50,000 needed to purchase the house from its new owner before it was destroyed, was unsuccessful. It was only after the fire practises began that the community reacted to the demise of a local landmark. It was too late.

Fire chief Ron Toker was most enthusiastic about his 26-member department's use of the house. "We've used it for search and rescue, smoke, ladders, ventilation . . . used different tools."

While he appreciates public concern about the property, he said, "If (people) realized the importance of doing our training there," . . . it would help explain . . . " it's value to us. Really, it can't be replaced," . . . in terms of experience and hands-on practical knowledge, he continued.

"We've thoroughly enjoyed using it."

The LaNouvelle, Beaumont, Alberta, July 28, 1986.



Regional Program News

Two successful Alberta Historical Resources Foundation Regional Meetings took place on Saturday, October 25, 1986. Wetaskiwin was the scene of the Red Deer Regional Meeting while the Old Man Regional Meeting took place in Lethbridge. Activities included walking tours, museum visit, film and slide presentations and business meetings. Approximately 40 members and guests attended each meeting.

Red Deer Regional Meeting

A walking tour of Wetaskiwin was featured at the Foundation's Red Deer Regional Meeting held in that community on October 25, 1986. One of the stops on the walking tour was the Compton House. The Queen Anne revival style house was built in 1907 by Clifford Compton an early settler and businessman.

Heritage A

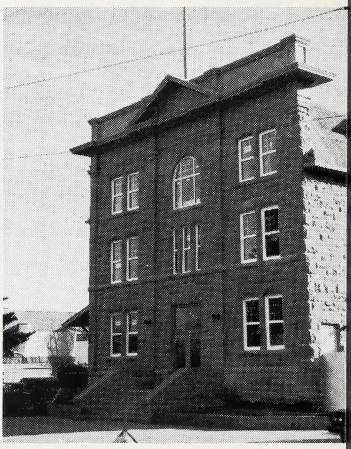
Architectural Awards

Revillion and Boardwalk Building, Edmonton

The Architectural Award — Commercial goes to IBI Group/David M. Thom Architect and N.A. Properties Ltd. of Edmonton, for the rehabilitation of the Revillon and Boardwalk Buildings in Edmonton. Located in the warehouse district, these buildings bring renewed vitality to the area, incorporating quality office and retail space with the exciting and new Boardwalk Market.

James G. Pratt of Medicine Hat receives the Architectural Award — Residential for his restoration of the Mitchell Ranch House. Mr. Pratt dedicated six years in a voluntary capacity to return this 1893 area landmark to its original beauty.

Honorable Mention was given to Ayres Dechert Architects Planners for the rehabilitation of the Old C.N. Sta tion in Calgary.



Old C.N. Station in Calgary

ard Winners

Heritage Service Awards

Mr. Kapicki's work in action during Heritage Days

The award for exemplary and long term service in encouraging local heritage preservation goes this year to Mike Kapicki of Andrew, Alberta.

As a founder of the Historical Village and Pioneer Museum, Shandro, Mr. Kapicki has for many years been involved in its continued growth and development. He has donated countless volunteer hours, provided his own equipment for construction and has contributed numerous artifacts to the musuem.

James Marshall of Medicine Hat is this year's recipient of the Heritage Service Award — Provincial. A key preservationist in his own city for many years, Mr. Marshall actively assists other communities through his participation on boards and committees. He continues to challenge all Albertans in heritage awareness through his public speaking, audio visual presentations and the written word.

Heritage Sites and Artifacts Awards

This award recognizes efforts in saving Alberta's visible heritage through the preservation of sites and artifacts. Recipients were the Spencer Historical Sites Society, Consort, Alberta and the Deane House Committee of the Junior League of Calgary.

The Spencer Historical Sites Society has for 15 years been preserving the history of East Central Alberta through the erection of cairns and stimulation of interest in the area's historic features.

It was through the impetus provided by the Deane House Committee of the Junior League of Calgary, that the restoration of the Deane House became a reality. The group played important roles in the development of the Interpretation Program, fundraising and as a catalyst in bringing together key elements necessary for the project's success.

Music in the parlor at Deane House

Call for Abstracts

The 1987 Association of Preservation Technology Conference will be held September 17 to 20th in Victoria, B.C. A call for abstracts has been issued. The conference is looking for prospective presentations associated with the preservation problems presented by wood and water.

For more information contact: Alastair Kerr, Program Chairperson, (604) 387-1011, local 322 or Mary Ransberry, Conference Office, (604) 721-8465. The mailing address is: APT '87, Conference Office, University of Victoria, P.O. Box 1700, Victoria, B.C., V8W 2Y2.

Heritage Intern Program

The Alberta Museums Association has received funding of $240,650 from Canada's Employment and Immigration Job Development Program. This program is designed to help the long term unemployed get back to work through a blending of work experience, training and institutional study.

The resulting eight-month Heritage Intern Program will provide twelve Museum Interns with access to all three levels of training. The Interns, placed in museums in Edmonton, Stony Plain, St. Albert and Fort McMurray will receive on-the-job training and work experience in a wide range of skills required to operate small community museums. They will also be the first participants in a certificate program in museum practice offered by an Edmonton post-secondary institution and is scheduled to begin in late October.

The Heritage Intern Program is an important step toward the Alberta Museums Association's goal of providing a full range of training opportunities for museum personnel in the Province.

Contact: Adriana Davis (403) 424-2626. Write to: 40, 9912 - 106 Street, Edmonton, Alberta T5K 1C5.

National Databank of Conservation Skills

The Association of Preservation Technology is pleased to announce the start of a unique research program in Canada. With the assistance of the Cultural Initiatives Program, Department of Communications, Government of Canada, APT is initiating a research program to create a national databank of craftsmen, technologists, contractors, architects, engineers, and consultants who have demonstrated experience or skills related to the conservation of historic or significant elements of the built environment.

The project will commence with a request to all provincial heritage and cultural organizations for their initial information input. Historic societies, Business Improvement Associations, heritage foundations, and various building associations and unions will also be contacted for references to experienced, skilled personnel in the preservation field.

A questionnaire will be distributed to those recommended practitioners to be completed for registration in the databank. The resulting information will then be available for distribution to government and provincial offices, and to those agencies who have participated.

For further information please contact the: "National Preservation Register", c/o Association of Preservation Technology, Box 2487, Station 'D', Ottawa, Ontario, K1P 5W6. Phone: (613) 238-1973.

Lauren Johnson appointed Heritage Planner. Lauren Johnson has been appointed Heritage Planner, City of Calgary. Her background includes a number of policy and design projects with the City including a strategic plan for the City's long term growth.

She was a founding member of the Society for the Preservation of Architectural Resources in Calgary and served on the City's inaugural Heritage Advisory Board. Her education includes Master of Environmental Design (Architecture), University of Calgary.

The Petroleum History Society

Acting upon the recommendations of its recently completed feasibility study, the Centre for Petroleum Industry History Society has changed its name, broadened its mandate, and plans an aggressive membership campaign in 1987. The feasibility study, conducted by Mr. David Finch and funded by a grant from the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation, found that the need and usefulness of a Centre for Petroleum Industry History could be clearly demonstrated. However, the prospect of raising a large amount of capital for the establishment and ongoing operation of the Centre is not positive at this time.

At an extraordinary meeting of the Society on November 4, 1986, members approved the changing of the name to The Petroleum History Society. As well, the purpose of the Petroleum History Society was broadened to include, in addition to the long-term objective of establishing the Centre for Petroleum Industry History, the collection, conservation and dissemination of information relevant to the history of the Petroleum Industry in Canada and the advising of others interested in the petroleum industry.

These changes will permit the volunteer organization to continue to promote actively the concept of the Centre, as well as to develop or sponsor research projects, publications, display, exhibits, and audio-visual materials; and to serve as the catalyst for locating, encouraging and supporting the preservation of artifacts, documents, photographs, oral histories and other historically significant items and materials bearing on the history of the Canadian Petroleum industry.

For further information on the Society, please contact W.R.S. (Bill) McLellan, President, The Petroleum History Society, c/o 24 Varslea Place N.W., Calgary, Alberta, T3A 0C9. Telephone: (403) 290-2840.

Correction

On Page 12 of the Vol. 9 No. 4 issue of The Cornerstone there is reference to a Mr. "Art Spencer of Alberta Culture". Please note that Mr. Spencer is not an employee of Alberta Culture, rather a member of the Spencer Historical Sites Society who accompanied two Alberta Culture staff members — Mr. Ken Carson, Regional Representative, and Mr. Bruce Ball, Parklands Archaeologist — on a brief tour of some archaeological sites in the Neutral Hills.

"Just Like Grandma Used to Make . . ."

. . . is a new cookbook recently published by the Fort Edmonton Historical Foundation. The cookbook contains recipes used regularly in the Park and are the chosen favorites of staff and visitors alike.

The cookbook follows the theme of Fort Edmonton Park beginning with the **Fur Trade Era** and progressing through to **1885 Street, 1905 Street,** and **1920 Street.** Each section contains a brief history of cooking facilities and methods of that era.

A sample of recipes includes those for Breads, Cakes, Cookies, Main Dishes, Preserves and "This and That". The cookbook also includes some "old" favorites like Fried Beaver Tail and Jellied Moose Nose.

Available at the Train Station of Fort Edmonton Park, or through the mail from Box 8645, Postal Station L, Edmonton, Alberta, T6C 4J4. The cookbooks cost **$3.25 each** or **$4.00 each to be mailed.** They are also available by calling 434-7585 in Edmonton.

Atlantic 1948 No. 3, by Aubrey Kerr, P.Geol.

The near disaster of a 1948 oilwell blowout created excitement and drama that reverberated around the world. The events are re-captured in a unique historical narrative by this well-known petroleum geologist and writer. Many authenticated facts concerning the leasing dispute with the mineral owners, the blow-out and subsequent fire are in print for the first time ever. Profusely illustrated.

Available from leading book-sellers or by direct order: Aubrey Kerr, 263 Windermere Road S.W., Calgary, Alberta T3C 3L2. Phone 246-1874. Cost: $24.94.

Youngblood of the Peace, by Shirlee Smith Matheson

Youngblood of the Peace is rich with stories of the old ways, of the new ways, of ingenious and sometimes startling methods used by this Oblate priest to attract his Indian and white parishioners to the churches he built in the north of Alberta and British Columbia.

Youngblood of the Peace is a journey, a story about a dwindling race. It is the story of the Peace, and of one of the pioneers who could never leave.

Lone Pine Publishers of Edmonton

Available from local bookstores, or direct from the author, Shirlee Smith Matheson, 1627 Bowness Road N.W., Calgary, Alberta. Phone: (Bus) 270-7210 or (Res) 283-0843. Cost: $9.95.

A Century of Memories:

This is a new book published by the Okotoks & District Historical Society. The cost of the book is $40.00 per copy plus postage: $3.00 Canadian, $5.00 U.S.A.

For any further information or enquiries contact Mrs. Viola Carr 938-4388, or write The Okotoks & District Historical Society, General Delivery, Okotoks, Alberta T0L 1T0.

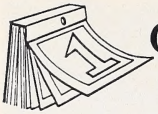
Ferintosh Village — CN Station taken 1921

Little Beaver Tales

500 pages of history of Ferintosh and District, Price — $30.00 plus postage.

Ferintosh History Book Committee.
Ferintosh, Alberta T0B 1M0.

Illustration compliments of
The West House Brunswick Street Halifax



Calendar of Events

Historic Resource Management

The Certificate in Historic Resource Management is a unique work/study programme for individuals involved in the historic resource management process. It is a joint undertaking of The University of Calgary and Alberta Culture and is administered by the Faculty of Continuing Education, The University of Calgary.

The programme has a well developed curriculum designed to provide the participant with an interdisciplinary perspective to the management, design and interpretation of historic resources, as well as to develop specific disciplinary skills and knowledge. Courses will be of interest to architects, planners, interpreters, conservators, curators, design technologists, specialists in preservation technology trades, historians and researchers.

Individual courses available includes:

Lowell Massachusetts: A Case Study in Industrial Archaeology.
April 13-14, 1987, Edmonton

Research and Documentation Techniques for Historic Resource Management
April 27-29, 1987, Edmonton

Masonry and Stone Conservation
May 1-5, 1987, Edmonton

Conservation and Maintenance of Church Buildings
May 7, 1987, Edmonton

There will be a **lecture** (no formal registration required) on "Historic Preservation in Britain". It will be held on the evening of May 6th in Edmonton and the evening of May 7th in Calgary. The location will be announced at a later date.

For more information or to register please contact The Faculty of Continuing Education, Certificate Programs. The University of Calgary, 2500 University Drive N.W., Calgary, Alberta T2N 1N4. Phone (403) 220-4993.

The Historical Society of Alberta, Amisk Waskahegan Chapter

Wednesday, April 1st
8:00 p.m.
"John Rowand Night" Annual General Meeting & Banquet
Guest Speaker and details to be announced

Saturday, May 30th
9:00 a.m.
Annual Field Trip
Details to be announced

The general public is cordially invited to attend these lectures. There is no charge, with the exception of banquets and tours. Refreshments are served. For further information, contact: Amisk Waskahegan Chapter, Historical Society of Alberta, Box 1013, Edmonton, Alberta. Phone: 427-1750 or 479-2069.

Heritage Canada Tours

Heritage Canada is offering two tours this year. In the fall a tour called The Heritage Train from Toronto to Vancouver, and Stately Homes and English Country Gardens in the spring.

For more information contact Heritage Canada Tours, c/o Blyth & Co., 68 Scollard Street, Toronto, Ontario M5R 1G2.

Exhibits in the Art Gallery

The following schedule highlights exhibits planned for the Gallery in the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation headquarters in Calgary during 1987. For more information contact Dorothy Farnish at the Foundation: 297-7320.

April 1-29 — "The Heritage Paintings" Armand Frederick Vallee. Open house April 7, 4-6 p.m.

May 4-28 — "Rodeo" photography by Donna Coulter of Fort Macleod.

June 2-26 — "Swan Hills" Art Club, Swan Hills, Alberta.

July 2-30 — Brush & Pallette Group, Calgary.

August 4-28 — "Many Moods of the Badlands" Mixed Media. Nettie Keehn.

September 2-30 — 100 Years of Alberta Women — Alberta Historical Resources Foundation Travelling Exhibit.

October 5-30 — Mixed media. Odelia Ell of Calgary.

November 4-30 — "Alberta Community Painters" Mixed media. Calgary.

December 3-31 — Crane Thomas, Seba Beach, Alberta, Oils/Watercolors.

Conservation of the Natural and Built Environment Conference

This Conference on heritage planning is being held May 21 to 23, 1987 in Red Deer. The Conference is being organized by the Alberta Association, Canadian Institute of Planners, in conjunction with the Alberta Association of Landscape Architects. The Conference features speakers such as one of your Foundation's Directors, Dr. Walter Jamieson, of the Department of Environmental Design, University of Calgary, Hans Honegger and Jim Mountain of Heritage Canada, and Chris Pickard of the Society for the Protection of Architectural Resources in Edmonton. The addition of speakers from Alberta Culture, the City of Edmonton and the private development sector makes this Conference of great potential interest.

More information available in the enclosed material.

Archaeological Society of Alberta 12th Annual Meeting, Westin Hotel, Calgary, Alberta

This year the annual meeting of the Archaeological Society of Alberta is being held in conjunction with the 20th annual meeting of the Canadian Archaeological Association. April 24th and 25th Society members are welcome to attend the CAA sessions or to register for just the Archaeological Society of Alberta session. Members of the ASA are also welcome to join the workshops or fieldtrips by preregistering. For the Head-Smashed-In trip only, we have arranged to allow members to provide their own transportation to Head-Smashed-In, and join the tours and lunch there. Preregistration is still necessary so that the Archaeological Survey of Alberta can plan for lunch. For information write: Conference Registration, Archaeological Society of Alberta, 101, 1815 Varsity Estates Drive N.W., Calgary, Alberta T3D B3Y.

BRING IN NEW MEMBERS — AND HAVE A CHANCE TO WIN "PRAIRIE ELEVATORS."

As a member in good standing of the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation you are invited to help expand our ranks and have the opportunity to win the beautiful James Marshall pen and ink print "Prairie Elevators". A small sized reproduction appears on The Cornerstone cover this month. This print is actually 15 by 20 inches and will be matted and framed.

All entries (form below) postmarked between April 1 and June 30 will be eligible for the draw to be held July 6, 1987.

Complete the new members form below, and send it to the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation with a cheque or money order for $5.00 for each new membership. Be sure to print clearly both your own name and the names of any new members. You are welcome to submit more than one new membership.

On receipt your name will be entered in the "Prairie Elevators" print draw once for each new membership that you submit.

Rules: In order for Members to qualify for submitting new member names, they must hold a current, paid-up 1987 membership in the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation. It is acceptable that your own membership renewal — from the centre of this issue — be submitted with the new membership application. The draw applies to new memberships only. 1986 Memberships which have lapsed and are renewed do not qualify. In order to claim the prize, the winner will be required to correctly answer a skill testing question. Foundation Board members, staff, and their immediate families are not eligible.

Membership Form - Please print clearly

New Member: _____

Address: _____

_____

Daytime Phone: _____

Membership Fee: $_____ enclosed ($5 per member)

Submitted By: _____

Membership #: _____ Daytime Phone: _____

Attach a list of any additional new memberships with their addresses and phone numbers. Detach above form and mail with a $5.00 cheque or money order for each membership to:

The Alberta Historical Resources Foundation
102 - 8th Avenue S.E.
Calgary, Alberta
T2G 0K6